

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) A speech coding/decoding apparatus comprising:

a partial algebraic codebook for generating excitation vectors, each comprised of three two or more excitation pulses such that an interval between at least a pair of the excitation pulses is relatively short, and storing the excitation vector;

limiting means for performing a limitation so that an excitation vector in which the limiting an interval between at least a pair of the excitation pulses is to be relatively short, in an excitation vector among the excitation vectors; and

a random codebook used adaptively, corresponding to a size, with respect to the number of candidate vectors that may be generated, of the partial algebraic codebook.

11. (Currently Amended) The speech coding/decoding apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the limiting means controls the length of the interval between the excitation pulses

using a relative relationship between a candidate position number (index) of a position of each excitation pulse, and switches a strength of the limitation between changes the number of candidate relative-relationships for each pair of excitation pulses in accordance with whether the excitation vector corresponds to a voiced speech and a or non-voiced speech.

12. (Currently Amended) The speech coding/decoding apparatus according to claim 9 10, wherein a rate the size of the random codebook, with regard to the number of entries therein, is adaptively increased by a portion corresponding to within a range of a decreased size of the partial algebraic codebook.

13. (Currently Amended) The speech coding/decoding apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the random codebook is comprised of comprises a plurality of channels for generating excitation vectors comprised of excitation pulses, and positions of the excitation pulses generated by the plurality of channels are limited so that the excitation pulses do as not to overlap between the channels.

Claims 14-17 (Canceled).

18. (Original) A base station apparatus comprising the speech coding/decoding apparatus according to claim 10.

Claim 19 (Canceled).

20. (Original) A communication terminal apparatus comprising the speech coding/decoding apparatus according to claim 10.

Claims 21-24 (Canceled).